We claim:

1. A computer-implemented method for enforcing policy over a computer network, the method comprising:

3 defining a template;

4 assigning a policy to the computer network;

5 monitoring a content stream on the computer network; and

6 enforcing the policy when the content stream is within a threshold distance of the

7 template.

1 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein assigning a policy includes assigning

2 a policy to limit bandwidth on the computer network for content in the content stream within

3 the threshold distance of the template.

1 3. A method according to claim 1, wherein assigning a policy includes assigning

2 a policy to limit access to a document on the computer network within the threshold distance

3 of the template.

1 4. A method according to claim 1, wherein monitoring a content stream includes

2 monitoring metadata of the content stream.

1 5. A method according to claim 1, wherein monitoring a content stream includes:

2 monitoring a portion of the content stream on the computer network; and

3 extrapolating how close the entire content stream is to the template from the portion

4 of the content stream.

1 6. A method according to claim 1, wherein monitoring a content stream includes

2 constructing an impact summary for the content stream.

1 7. A computer-readable medium containing a program operable on a computer to

2 enforce policy over a computer network, the program comprising:

3 definition software to define a template;

4 assignment software to assign a policy to the computer network;

5 monitoring software to monitor a content stream on the computer network; and

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enforcement software to enforce the policy when the content stream is within a threshold distance of the template.

1   8.   A program according to claim 7, wherein the assignment software includes
2 assignment software to assign a policy to limit bandwidth on the computer network for
3 content in the content stream within the threshold distance of the template.

1   9.   A program according to claim 7, wherein the assignment software includes
2 assignment software to assign a policy to limit access to a document on the computer network
3 within the threshold distance of the template.

1   10.   A program according to claim 7, wherein the monitoring software includes
2 monitoring software to monitor metadata of the content stream.

1   11.   A program according to claim 7, wherein the monitoring software includes:
2   monitoring software to monitor a portion of the content stream on the computer
3 network; and
4   extrapolation software to extrapolate how close the entire content stream is to the
5 template from the portion of the content stream.

1   12.   A program according to claim 7, wherein the monitoring software includes
2 construction software to construct an impact summary for the content stream.

1   13.   An apparatus for enforcing policy over a computer network, the apparatus
2 comprising:
3   a computer;
4   a template stored in the computer;
5   a policy associated with the template;
6   a monitor installed in the computer adapted to monitor a content stream in the
7 computer network; and
8   a policy enforcer adapted to enforce the policy when the monitor determines the
9 content stream to be within a threshold distance of the template.
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Sub At 7

14. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the monitor is adapted to monitor
2 metadata about the content stream.

1 15. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the metadata about the content
2 stream includes a percentage of the network dedicated to the content stream.

1 16. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the monitor is adapted to monitor
2 only a portion of the content stream on the computer network and extrapolate how close the
3 entire content stream is to the template from the portion of the content stream.

1 17. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the monitor includes means for
2 capturing an impact summary for the content stream.

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